FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT LaSalle County Emergency Operations Center LaSalle County, Illinois

Department of Homeland Security - Homeland Security Grant Program

LaSalle County, Illinois, has applied for funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) for assistance with the construction of an emergency operations center located within LaSalle County, to provide emergency services during terror and disaster events. DHS/FEMA is proposing to provide assistance for this project through the Emergency Operations Center Grant Program.

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B – Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts of construction of the emergency operations center and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The Proposed Action, as described in the EA, will not result in any significant adverse impacts to geology, seismicity, groundwater, floodplains, public services and utilities, public health and safety, hazardous materials, socioeconomic resources, low income or minority populations, biological resources or cultural resources. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, surface water, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas. The project was coordinated with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions were developed to mitigate the potential impacts of this project and must be met as a condition of project approval. Failure to comply with these conditions and the conditions contained in the EA may jeopardize Federal funds:

- 1. The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, State and Federal permits and approvals.
- 2. The applicant will monitor ground disturbance during the construction phase; should human skeletal remains, or historic or archaeological materials be discovered during construction, all ground-disturbing activities on the project site shall cease and the applicant shall notify the coroner's office (in the case of human remains), FEMA, and the Ohio Historical Society.
- 3. If deviations from the proposed scope of work result in substantial design changes, the need for additional ground disturbance, additional removal of vegetation, or in any other unanticipated changes to the physical environment, the Grantee must contact FEMA, and a re-evaluation under NEPA and other applicable environmental laws will be conducted by FEMA.
- 4. Construction vehicles and equipment would be stored on site during project construction and appropriate signage would be a posted on affected roadways. All construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. Construction would take place only during normal business hours and all equipment will meet local, State and Federal noise regulations.

- 5. To reduce impacts to surface waters and reduce soil erosion, appropriate Best Management Practices, such as installing silt fences and re-vegetating bare soils immediately should be used.
- 6. Detention of run-off water will be provided as necessary to control volume of water draining to the Fox River. This will be done in accordance with the City of Ottawa's Storm Water Management Ordinance. Temporary detention of water on-site will be required to minimize possible adverse affects to Fox River.
- 7. During Construction the applicant will water down construction areas when necessary.

FINDINGS

Based upon the conditions and information contained in the EA for the LaSalle County Emergency Operations Center and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA has determined that the proposed action would not have any significant adverse impacts on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

APPROVAL

Amanda C. Ratliff Date Regional Environmental Officer FEMA Region V